

SAINT STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



SERVED BY THE FRATERNITY OF SAINT PETER

PARISH INFORMATION	SACRAMENTS	DEVOTIONS
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARISH OFFICE</b></p> <p><b>Email</b>      stephenproto@yahoo.com  <b>Website</b>      www.sacfssp.com  <b>Phone</b>      916-455-5114  <b>Address</b>      5461 44<sup>th</sup> Street                               Sacramento, CA 95820  <b>Bookstore</b>      916-223-3112</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIESTS</b></p> <p>Fr. Joshua Curtis, FSSP      <i>Pastor</i>          frcurtis@fssp.com      Fr. David McWhirter, FSSP      <i>Par. Vicar</i>          frmwhirter@fssp.com      Fr. Evan Schwab, FSSP      <i>Par. Vicar</i>          father.schwab@gmail.com      Fr. Evaristus Eshiwu      <i>Retired</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAFF</b></p> <p>Tish Gallagher      <i>Parish Secretary</i>          stephenproto@yahoo.com      Keven Smith      <i>Choirmaster</i>          ksmith_writer@yahoo.com      Kelly Mantsch      <i>Parish Bookkeeper</i>          ststephenbusinessoffice@gmail.com      Anne Morell      <i>Bookstore Assistant</i>      Stella Zapata      <i>Custodian &amp; Office Asst.</i>      Francis Dugyon      <i>Sacristan</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASS SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>Sun</b>      7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am,                       11:30 am, 1:00 pm (Sung),                       6 pm  <b>Mon - Fri</b>      7 am, 12 pm, 6 pm  <b>Sat</b>      7 am, 8:30 am, 12 pm  <b>Holy Day</b>      Check bulletin.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONFESSIONS</b></p> <p>We have confessions <b>every weekday</b>, starting one half hour before the beginning of Mass. There are also limited times on Sunday for confessions.</p> <p><b>Sun</b>      6:30 am &amp; 5:30 pm  <b>Mon - Fri</b>      6:30 am, 11:30 am, 5:30 pm  <b>Sat</b>      6:30 am, 8 am, 11:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BAPTISMS &amp; WEDDINGS</b></p> <p>Contact the Parish Office. Baptisms should be within the first two weeks after birth; marriages generally require six months of preparation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SICK CALLS</b></p> <p>Call the Parish Office to schedule a home visit for the Sacraments.</p> <p><b>If someone is dying</b>, outside of office hours, dial <b>916-455-5114</b>, then press <b>1</b>. You will be transferred immediately to the priest-on-call.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE DIVINE OFFICE</b></p> <p><b>Mon - Fri</b>      Lauds at 8:10 am                               Compline at ~7 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPOSITION &amp; BENEDICTION</b></p> <p><b>Thurs</b>      1 pm - 6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE HOLY ROSARY</b></p> <p><b>Sun</b>      6:30 am &amp; 7 pm  <b>Last Sat</b>      After the 8:30 am          (<i>15 decades, offered for priests.</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP</b></p> <p><b>Tues</b>      After the 6 pm Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH</b></p> <p><b>Wed</b>      After all Masses</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS</b></p> <p><b>Sun</b>      After the 1 pm Mass  <b>Thurs</b>      After all Masses</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SAINT MONICA SODALITY</b></p> <p><b>First Thurs</b>      After the 6 pm Mass</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE SACRED HEART</b></p> <p><b>First Fri</b>      After all Masses</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FATIMA PROCESSION</b></p> <p>The 13<sup>th</sup> of every month from May to October. See bulletin announcements for times.</p>
<b>STAYING CONNECTED</b>	<b>THE FSSP</b>	<b>DONATIONS</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARISH ONLINE NEWSLETTER</b></p> <p>To receive the bulletin and important announcements online, call the Parish Office to register.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEW PARISHIONERS</b></p> <p>Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Stephen the First Martyr is a personal parish of the Diocese of Sacramento. It is served by priests of the <b>Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter</b>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. BERNADETTE FUND</b></p> <p>Please consider giving to fellow parishioners in need. Donations can be made online or at the Parish Office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONLINE GIVING</b></p> <p>Available at the parish website.          www.sacfssp.com</p>
<p>Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping, unless you are giving online. Please pick them up in the Parish Office.</p>		

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

<b>21 Jan</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany, II</b> 7 am Catherine McNamara 8:30 am Rafael Angel Pinzon 10 am McKenna Respicio 11:30 am Teresa Chavez 1 pm <i>Pro populo</i> 6 pm Laura Joan Abbott
<b>22 Jan</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Ss. Vincent and Anastasius, III</b> 7 am Stella Zepata 12 pm Thomas Villalobos, Jr 6 pm Zenaida Cozzatti
<b>23 Jan</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>St. Raymund de Peñafort, III</b> 7 am Jane Antreich 12 pm Christopher Magabo 6 pm + Carolyn Greenwood
<b>24 Jan</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>St. Timothy, III</b> 7 am Julie Jeong 12 pm Albert Frederick Treskon 6 pm + Laurette Elsberry
<b>25 Jan</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Conversion of St. Paul, III</b> 7 am + Jose Dayap 12 pm Miss Nissa 6 pm Brian & Darla Fishback family
<b>26 Jan</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>St. Polycarp, III</b> 7 am + Ernest John Carey 12 pm + Relatives & friends of Susan Myers 6 pm + Loretta Garcia
<b>27 Jan</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>St. John Chrysostom, III</b> 7 am Fr Jim Blount 8:30 am Michael Szumowski 12 pm + Andrew Brake

**PRAYER LIST**

Ed Schneider, Paula Belen, Vanessa Jimenez, Ralph Clark, Michelle DiGiovani, Mark Mitchell, Phil Carey, Judy Bennett, Jasinkas, Debbie Vilar, Dominick Damore, Judi Geldermann, Elaine Testa, Monique Rance, Nancy Tostenson, Karen Rich, Bob Crocker, Stephanie Reali-Saavedra, Theresa Reali, Don Varley, Dolly Lewis, Mary Ann Cuny, Barbara Graichen, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Helen DiCarlo, Barbara Cogan, Jordan Aranas, JoAnn Mutterties

*Please keep all of the sick and homebound of the parish in your daily prayers, as well as our adult catechumens and candidates.*

**IN MEMORIAM**

Alfred Solorio, Fr. James Buckley, Rudy Nagel, Paul Graff, Pietro Lopresti, John Hymes, Teodosio Dino, Barbara Chu, Nellie Reyes, Albert Treskon, Violet Corr, Mary Hayes, Derald Goyette, Bonnie Williams, Frank Bowa, Ramon Daley, Eileen Morrison, Richard & Louise Szabo, Cesar Oliva, Joseph Damore, Ken Taylor, Joseph Menezes, Edgardo Mercado, Barbara Jeong, Jean Haun, Rene Iway, Richard Seifert, Fiona Silverio, John Dunlap, Jeff Long, David Tostenson, Eleanor Roberts, Robert Rose, Sharon Graves, Eda Granby, Gloria Garcia, Raymond Villalpando

**PARISH GROUPS**

<b>Choir &amp; Music Classes</b> .....	<b>Keven Smith</b> <i>Youth &amp; Adults, Sunday &amp; Thursday</i> ....ksmith_writer@yahoo.com
<b>Altar Guild &amp; Altar Guild Minor</b> .....	<b>Mike Solton</b> <i>Boys 7 – 18, Third Saturday</i> ..... 916-832-2859
<b>Troops of Saint George (Scouting)</b> .....	<b>James Campbell</b> <i>Boys 6 – 18</i> .....Jcampbell@tsgtroop750.org
<b>Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> .....	<b>Amy Rutschow</b> <i>Girls 14 – 18, First Saturday</i> ..... 916-340-5782
<b>Rosa Mystica</b> .....	<b>Sue McGrath</b> <i>Girls 9 – 13, First Saturday</i> ..... 916-531-3946
<b>Little Flowers</b> .....	<b>Megan Gury</b> <i>Girls 5 – 8, First Saturday</i> ..... 916-207-0498
<b>Youth Group</b> .....	<b>Liz Hernandez</b> <i>Ages 14 – 18, Second &amp; Fourth Friday</i> ..... 916-396-4062
<b>OLSW Co-op</b> .....	<b>Inocencio Rangel</b> <i>Ages 14 – 18, Tuesday &amp; Thursday</i> ..... 916-804-6359
<b>CCM Co-op</b> .....	<b>Blanca Pimentel</b> <i>Ages 3 – 14, Thursday</i> ..... blancaerodria@yahoo.com
<b>Veritas (Young Adult Group)</b> .....	<b>AJ Alvarado</b> <i>Ages 18 – 39, Third Tuesday</i> ..... veritasnorcal@gmail.com
<b>Adult Catechism</b> .....	<b>Fr. Joshua Curtis, FSSP</b> <i>Adults, Second &amp; Fourth Thursday</i> ..... frcurtis@fssp.com
<b>Chesterton Society</b> .....	<b>Spencer Roundtree</b> <i>Adults, Second Tuesday</i> ..... sac.chesterton@gmail.com
<b>Knights of Columbus #16419</b> .....	<b>William Giovannetti</b> <i>Adult men, Third Wednesday</i> ..... 916-531-4730
<b>Ushers</b> .....	<b>Roger Soto</b> <i>Adult men, Sundays &amp; Holy Days</i> ..... 209-610-1163
<b>Security</b> .....	<b>Patrick Clemons</b> <i>Adult Men, Sundays &amp; Parish Events</i> ..... 916-717-0244
<b>Altar Linen &amp; Flowers Society</b> .....	<b>Tomoko McDonough</b> <i>Adult women, Third Saturday</i> ..... mcdonoughmommy6@gmail
<b>Church Flowers</b> .....	<b>Greta Munsill</b> <i>Friday or Saturday</i> ..... 916-425-7112
<b>Church Cleaning</b> .....	<b>Eli Gonzalez</b> <i>Wednesday</i> ..... 916-395-7408
<b>Collection Count Crew</b> .....	<b>Kelly Manstch</b> <i>Monday</i> ..... Parish Office 916-451-5114
<b>Brown Bag Lunch Program</b> .....	<b>Maureen Olguin</b> <i>Sunday</i> ..... jmolguin5960@att.net
<b>The Gabriel Project</b> .....	<b>Catarina Hinojos</b> <i>On call</i> ..... 415-286-6228
<b>Senior’s Lunch (55+)</b> .....	<b>Ann Zacharias</b> <i>Third Thursday</i> ..... 916-838-7404

**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

**Rev. Mr. Jacob Kasak, FSSP;  
Sr. MaryAnne Regina, CM**

*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.*

PASTOR'S COLUMN

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & GIFT CARD SCAMS

A few days ago, I watched the newly-elected president of Argentina give a speech to the World Economic Forum. It was a decent speech, and, considering the context, perhaps even a brave speech. But the more of interest was that the speech was delivered in English: a language which the president does not speak.

Artificial "intelligence" (AI) had removed the original Spanish and imposed a spoken English translation, while maintaining the president's voice in pitch, timbre, tone, and cadence. His lips were seamlessly synced to the English translation. Had I been unaware that the president does not speak English, I never would have realized that the speech was, in a sense, a fake (the translation in this case was at least accurate).

A couple of weeks ago, the other priests and I watched a pilot program of an AI news channel which is being proposed for the Los Angeles area. All of the anchors were generated by AI. Again, had we been unaware that the anchors were not real people, we very likely could have been convinced otherwise.

These sorts of phenomena are improving at an accelerating pace. It was only about six months ago that AI generated images could not quite get hands right; there would almost always be too many fingers, or too few, or too many joints, or hands bent in ways beyond normal thresholds. That this technology has progressed so far, in so short a time, is alarming to say the least.

In the future, we will likely have to be on our guard against all sorts of dangers, which now we can only imagine. It is possible we are looking at a paradigm shift as sweeping and dramatic as the smartphone or the internet. Time will tell.

For now, I want to renew my warning against scams that are becoming increasingly common. It seems that criminals are getting better at identifying parishioners of St. Stephen's. It used to be that only those parishioners that were in the bulletin - whether in the volunteer groups listed on the opposite page, or in the announcements, or in the ads on the back - were being targeted by these scams. But the scammers have broadened their net. I am not sure what mechanism they are using, but it is getting increasingly easier for bots to farm data from what is publicly available on the internet. A facial recognition algorithm running over a social media post would be enough to identify persons and place them at St. Stephen's, allowing a bot to guess that someone is probably a parishioner.

These scams, which to present have been limited to texts and e-mail, are very probably going to get much more sophisticated, and soon. It is already trivial to run speech through a voice filter, which means that getting a call from

an AI that sounds like Fr. Curtis or one of the other priests, is already within the realm of possibility.

**The priests will never ask for gift cards, or for private bank information, or other such things, and especially never by text, e-mail, phone, or any electronic means.**

For reference, this has been the general playbook for these scammers:

**Scammer:** *Hi, this is Fr Curtis, please let me know if you can help with an urgent situation.*

**Parishioner:** *Of course I can help. What do you need?*

**Scammer:** *I'm at the hospital with a little girl dying of cancer. I want to help her take her mind off things but I left my wallet at home. Can you purchase a couple of \$100 iTunes cards and send me the registration numbers on them? That way she can at least watch a few movies.*

It's pretty twisted. Be on your guard.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 27	Marriage Workshop (12 pm - 5 pm)
Feb 10	Pancake Breakfast
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
Apr 13	Confirmations (3 pm)
Apr 27	Italian Dinner
May 29	Priestly Ordination of then Fr Kasak
Jun 8	First Mass of Fr Kasak at Cathedral (5 pm)
Jun 16-22	Camp Sacred Heart
Jun 22-28	Camp Immaculate Heart
Jul 14-18	Parish Retreat

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tax Letters** are now available. They can be picked up in the conference room between the bookstore and the office after all daytime Masses.

**Diaper Drive.** Today, Sun, Jan 21, the Knights of Columbus are receiving donations of diapers (sizes 1-6) and baby wipes for the benefit of the Gabriel Project. Donations can be dropped off after all Masses, in the courtyard.

**Day of Reparation.** On Mon, Jan 22, all the faithful in the United States are encouraged to acts of penance and reparation for the sin of abortion.

**Adult Catechism** meets on Thurs, Jan 25 at 7 pm.

**Youth Group** meets on Fri, Jan 26 at 7 pm.

The **Rosary for Priests** will be prayed on Sat, Jan 27, after the 8:30 am Mass. Join us in praying fifteen decades of the Rosary for the sanctification of priests.

**Marriage Workshop.** On Sat, Jan 27, Fr. Curtis will give a workshop on marriage open to all adult parishioners, starting with noon Mass and continuing in the parish hall until about 5 pm. **There is no need to RSVP, and child supervision will be provided in the classroom area. Plan on bringing your own lunch.**



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+JMJ+ Join us in weekly Pro-Life prayers for the sacred lives of the unborn at Planned Parenthood, 201 29th St., Sacramento. Contact Dianna for details.  
For more info: www.womensprayergroupinchrist.org  
Supporting the FSSP: www.RealEstatefortheFSSP.wordpress.com



**Dignity Health Foundation**

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Consider contacting our parishioner **Ed Wedinsky** to work out little jobs like airport runs, running errands, etc. His number is 530-704-8392.

Interested in supporting the print and office needs of the parish by placing an ad (2.55" x 1.36") in the bulletin? Contact Fr. Curtis by e-mail: frcurtis@fssp.com.